

Bangladesh: Provisional Overprints on Pakistan Train Stamp: A study

This is quite a complex, but very interesting, field of study. I am hampered by having no literature at all to help me, and any **identifications of location given in this article** come from pencil annotations in the **Lawrence Kenneth collection**. [Ref: "Lawrence Kenneth Collection of Trains on Philatelic Items" February 23-24, 2010 Feldman USA Galleries, New York City, NY, USA]

It follows, therefore, that all the information below should be treated with a certain amount of caution and I invite anyone, who can provide any more information, to contact me via the email link on my home page. It is not that common for anyone to contact me about my railway articles, but this time, if you know anything, please share it. I have given a reference (the scan name, in fact) to each unidentified stamp, to help with identification, if you are writing to me.

I have limited my study to a single 1971 Pakistan stamp, overprinted at many locations, when Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, broke away from West Pakistan and gained its independence in 1971. Local overprinting of Pakistan stamps took place from December 20th, 1971 onwards and these remained legitimate for postage until April 30th, 1973.

The Pakistan stamps of 1961 (2 x railway centenary), 1969 (Dakar Station) and 1970 (Expo tracks) are also found overprinted, but I think it quite unlikely that any of these were still available in post offices at the time the overprinting took place. They are likely to have been handstamped by favour or private philatelic creations. Even on the stamp I have illustrated, the vast majority of the overprints are handstamped and the primitive nature of the handstamps give ample opportunity for 'creative philately' after the event. However, whilst there certainly are a fair number of forgeries around, there are also many genuine stamps and some must be very scarce. Covers or used copies, with legible postmarks, are invaluable for identifying locations. It is always worth trying to read the date of any used copies.

Colour of Overprint: The overprints occur most commonly in Violet, frequently also in Black and less commonly in Red.

Language(s) of Overprint: Both unilingual and bilingual overprints are found, in Bengali (also known as Bangla) and / or in English.

Style of Overprint: In order to facilitate searches through the illustrations, I have chosen to group first by Colour of Overprint, then by sub-groups according to Language(s) used. Where this still resulted in quite a large group, I have further divided the sub-group according to the format of the overprint and, in general, within these sub-groups, I have ordered the stamps according to the length of the word 'Bangladesh' in English, or, where the overprint is in Bengali only, according to the length of the text part of the Bengali overprint. (Note: The variation in the displayed size of the scans is not significant.)

Scans: The stamps are all the same size but some scans have been slightly reduced in size to fit the page neatly.

Index to Listing

BLACK OVERPRINTS:

- (i) : Overprinted in BENGALI only
- (ii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only, with Bangladesh in one word
- (iii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only, with Bangla Desh in two words
- (iv) : Overprinted in BOTH languages, Bengali on top
- (v) : Overprinted in BOTH languages, English on top

RED OVERPRINTS:

- (vi) : Overprinted in BENGALI only
- (vii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only
- (viii) : Overprinted in BOTH languages

VIOLET OVERPRINTS - Unilingual Overprints

(Note: Stamps which would qualify in more than one of the groupings in this section are listed in the FIRST grouping in which they qualify.)

- (ix) : Overprinted in BENGALI only : Bar below text or Overprint in Two Lines
- (x) : Overprinted in BENGALI only - in ONE word
- (xi) : Overprinted in BENGALI only - in TWO words
- (xii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - BANGLADESH in ONE WORD in Upper Case (i. e. Capital Letters)
- (xiii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - BANGLA DESH in TWO WORDS in Upper Case (i. e. Capital Letters)
- (xiv) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - Bangladesh or Bangla Desh in Lower Case (i.e. small letters)

VIOLET OVERPRINTS - Bilingual Overprints

(Note: Stamps which would qualify in more than one of the groupings in this section are listed in the FIRST grouping in which they qualify.)

- (xv) : Framed Overprints
- (xvi) : Overprints with Bars
- (xvii) : ENGLISH on top
- (xviii) : BENGALI on top : English word(s) Bangladesh or Bangla Desh in Lower Case (i.e. small letters)
- (xix) : BENGALI on top : Bengali text longer than, or equal to, English text in length .
- (xx) : BENGALI on top : ALL OTHER bilingual violet overprints with Bengali on top.

OVERPRINTS COVERING A VERTICAL PAIR OF STAMPS

- (xxi) : All such pairs, in any colour of overprint

BLACK OVERPRINTS: (i): Overprinted in BENGALI only



1. Central Government Office in Chittagong (Bengali 11.5 mms wide)

2. Kapasia (Bengali approx. 46 mms wide)

3. Bhairab Bazar P. O.. (Bengali 21 mms wide)

BLACK OVERPRINTS : (ii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only with Bangladesh (or BANGLADESH) in one word, length of word ' Bangladesh ' given.

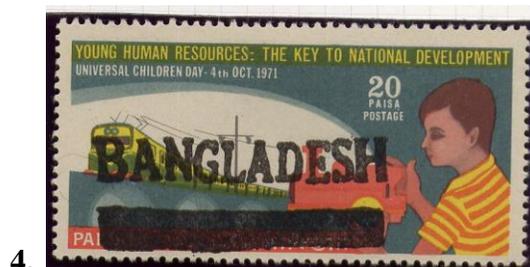


1. GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH (violet-black opt) -Dinajpur (BANGLADESH 31 mms wide)

2. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Uni-Eng-unid-34mm)

3. BANGLADESH 34.5 mms wide

Note : The GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH overprint is reported to exist in black, as opposed to violet-black, as shown here.



4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Uni-Eng-unid-37-6mm) 37mm wide, 6mm high

5. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Uni-Eng-unid-37-4mm) 37mm wide, 4mm high

6. Faridpur (18.5 mms)

BLACK OVERPRINTS : (iii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only with Bangla Desh (or BANGLA DESH) in two words, length of word ' Bangladesh ' given.



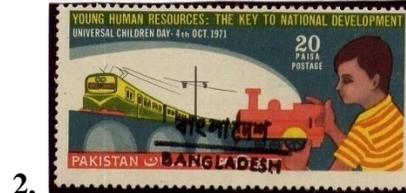
1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-Uni-Eng2-unid-27mm) 27mms

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-Uni-Eng2-unid-32mm-bars) 32 mms wide

3. Unidentified (Ref : BD-Uni-Eng2-unid-32mm) 32 mms wide

4. Dacca Court 31 mms

BLACK OVERPRINTS: (iv) : Overprinted in BOTH languages, Bengali on top, length of the English word 'Bangladesh' given.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Beng-first-unid-1) 14.5 mms
2. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Beng-first-unid-2) 19.75 mms
3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-first-Top-unid-3) 20.5 mms
4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Beng-first-unid-4) 27.5 mms

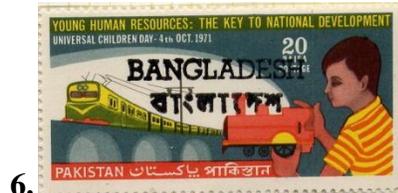
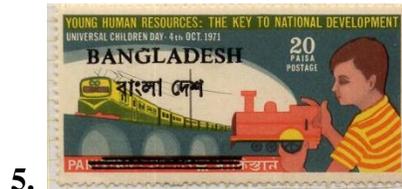
BLACK OVERPRINTS : (v) : Overprinted in BOTH languages, English on top, length of the English word 'Bangladesh' given.



1. Press Notice (machine opt, often used in Jessore) 17 mms

2. Jessore Official Issue (machine opt) 25.5 mms

3. Jessore Official Issue (machine opt) Inverted 25.5 mms



4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Eng Top-unid-14mm) 14 mms

5. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Eng Top-unid-26mm) 26 mms

6. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Eng Top-unid-28mm) 28.5 mms

7. Unidentified (Ref: BD-Eng Top-unid-44mm) 44 mms

RED OVERPRINTS: (vi) : Overprinted in BENGALI only. Length of Bengali text given.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-R-Beng-13mm) 13.5 mms

2. Manikganj - 14.5 mms

3. Chittagong Port - 15 mms (violet-red overprint)



4. Unidentified (Ref : BD-R-Beng-18mm) 18 mms

5. Shalar-Dari-Jessore - 21 mms

6. Unidentified (Ref : BD-R-Beng-21mm) 21 mms

RED OVERPRINTS: (vii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only.



1. Dinajpu - 19 mms

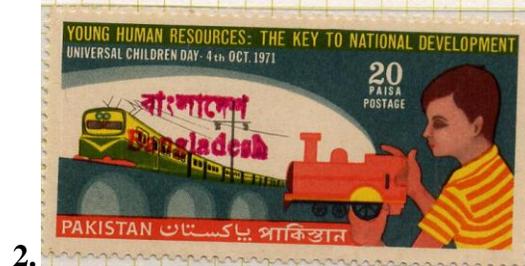
2. Unidentified - (Ref : BD-R-Eng-semi-circle)

3. Shibaloy P. O. - (see note below)

4. Possibly Kuhrna - (requires verification) 46 mms

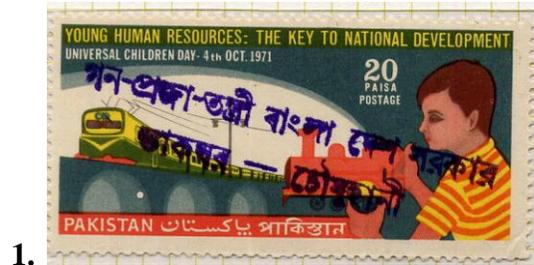
(Note to 3. Above: Overprint appears the same as that identified as Chowddagram-Comilla in section (xiii))

RED OVERPRINTS : (viii) : Overprinted in BOTH LANGUAGES, length of English word ' Bangladesh ' given.



1. Shibalay (boxed opt) Bangladesh 20 mms
2. Unidentified (Ref: BD-R-Biling-17mm) 17 mms (Bengali on Top)
3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-R-Biling-23mm) 23 mms (English on Top)

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (ix) : Overprinted in BENGALI only, either with bar below text or with overprint in two lines. Length of Bengali text given.



1. Chowmuni (two - line overprint)

2. Unidentified(Ref: BD-V-bar-unid-21) 21 mms

3. Unidentified(Ref: BD-V-bar-unid-41) 41 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (x) : Overprinted in BENGALI only - in ONE WORD. Length of Bengali text given.



1. Comilla-15 mms
2. Jaydevpur - 18 mms
3. Jaydevpur Inverted Overprint - 18 mms
4. Jessore NPD - 19.5 mms



1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-unid-20 heavy) 20.5 mms
2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-unid-20 light) 20.5 mms
3. Narayanganj 21 mms

Note: The first and second stamps above are probably from the same location, but the lack of detail on the heavier overprint makes this hard to verify.



1.



2.



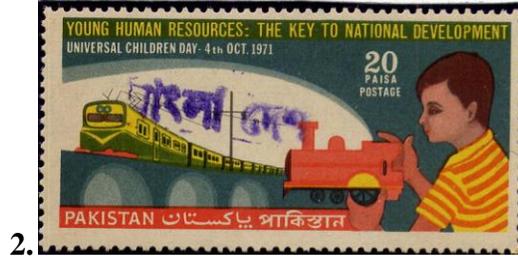
3.

1. Probably a heavy opt of the preceding Narayanganj 21.5 mms

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-unid-22) 22 mms

3. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-unid-23) 22.5 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xi) : Overprinted in BENGALI only - in TWO WORDS. Length of Bengali text given.



1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-Two-unid-21) 21 mms
2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-Two-unid-22) 22 mms
3. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-Two-unid-24) 24 mms



1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Beng-Two-unid-31) 31 mms
2. Deopara Mymensing 39 mms
3. Moheskhali-Chittagong 47 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - BANGLADESH in ONE WORD in Upper Case (i.e. Capital Letters). Length of word ' BANGLADESH ' given.



1. Overprint in Grey-Violet, very similar to one listed under Black opts

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-UC1-21) 21.5 mms

3. Shalutikar, Sylhet 2.5 mms

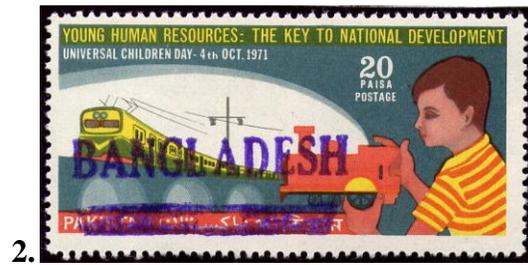
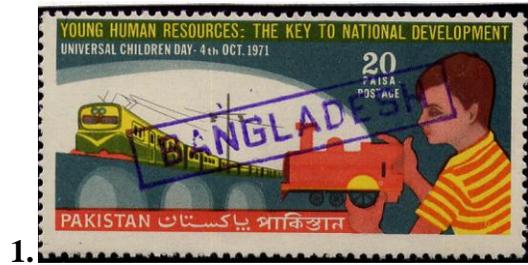


1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-UC1-23) 23 mms

2. Akhavra 27 mms (see note below)

3. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-UC1-28) 28.5 mms

Note: The Akhara stamp above is missing the 'H' from 'BANGLADESH'. I do not know whether this is a variety or a constant error.



1. Karhakati (boxed opt) 33 mms

2. Rajshani 34.5 mms - with appearance of TWO bars at foot

3. Rajshani 35 mms - with appearance of sold bar at foot

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xiii) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - BANGLA DESH in TWO WORDS in Upper Case (i.e. Capital Letters). Length of ' BANGLA DESH ' given.



1. Maijdi Noakhali 24 mms

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-UC2-29) 29 mms

3. Comilla 31.5 mms

4. Chowddagram-Comilla 32 mms (see note below)

Note to 4 above: Overprint appears the same as that identified as Shibaloy P.D. in section (vii)

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xiv) : Overprinted in ENGLISH only - Bangladesh or Bangla Desh in Lower Case (i.e. small letters). Length of text given.



1. Mehekour-Kustia 17 mms

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-LC-17) 17.5 mms

3. Rajshani 19 mms

Note : The first two stamps above may well be from the same location, with a worn handstamp applied to the left stamp.



1. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-LC-21) 21.5 mms

2. Unidentified (Ref : BD-V-Eng-LC-42) 42 mms

3. On cover , postmarked Dacca ' People's Republic of Bangladesh '

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xv) : Bilingual : Boxed (or otherwise framed) overprints. Length of English text given.



1. Jiban Nagar 2 mms

2. Sunagang Sylhet 17.5 mms

3. Manikganj (1) 19.5 mms

4. Manikganj (2) 21.5 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS: (xvi): Bilingual: Overprints with bar or bars in the design. Length of English text given.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Bar-20) 20 mms

2. Barasik Ho 25.5 mms

3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Bar-29) 29 mms

4. Dacca Shbar 36 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS: (xvii) : Bilingual : English on top. Length of English text given.



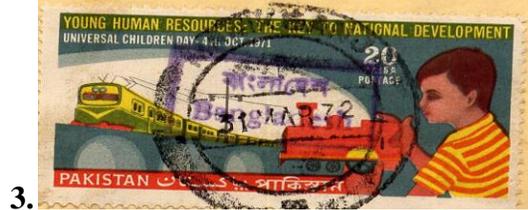
1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Eng-20) 20 mms:

2. Unidentified (BD-V-Bi-Eng-22) 22 mms

3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Eng-28) 28.5 mms

Note: Stamp No. 1 above is on a cover postmarked TEMPORARY P.D. / DA 314 / 5 FEB

VIOLET OVERPRINTS : (xviii) : Bilingual : Bengali on top. English word ' Bangladesh ' in Lower Case (small letters) . Length of English text given.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Beng-bangla-16) 16 mms

2. Kholna GPO 17 mms

3. Manikanj 19.5 mms

Note: The right-hand stamp above is on a cover from Manikganj 31 MAR 1972. The mint stamp immediately following appears to have the same handstamp.

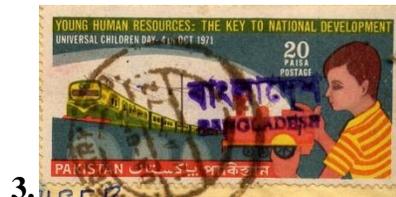


1. Manikganj 19.5 mms (see footnote immediately above)

2. Chandpur 20 mms

3. Noakhali 21 mms

VIOLET OVERPRINTS: (xix) : Bilingual : Bengali on top : Bengali text longer than, or equal to, English.
Length of English text given.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Beng-Long-18) 18.5 mms

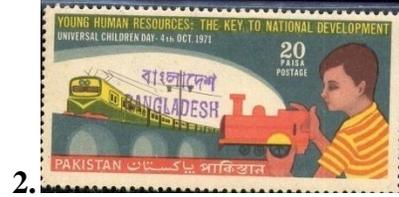
2. Dacca?? (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Beng-Long-19-1) 19.5 mms

3. Dacca?? (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Beng-Long-19-2) 19.5 mms

4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Beng-Long-21) 21 mms

Note: No. 3 above is on a cover from a Dacca address, whilst No. 2 appears to be a mint example of the same overprint.

VIOLET OVERPRINTS: (xx): Bilingual: Bengali on top: Other: Length of English Text given, length of Bengali text also given in some cases for clarity.



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-15) 15 mms
2. Chittagong GPO 15.5 mms
3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-18) 18mms
4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-24) 24 mms



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-25(18)) 25 mms (*Bengali text is 18 mms long*)
2. Bangpur Bazaar 25 mms (*Bengali text 20 mms long, 'H' is narrow*)
3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-25(20)) 25 mms (*Bengali text 20 mms long, 'H' is wide*)
4. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-26) 25.5 mms (*Bengali text is 20.5 mms long*)



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-25(23)) 25 mms, Bengali 23.5 mms

2. Brahman-Baria 28.5 mms

3. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-29) 29 mms



1. Unidentified (Ref: BD-V-Bi-Other-32) 32 mms

2. Narayanganj HD Post Office 33 mms

3. Bogra 34 mms

OVERPRINTS COVERING A VERTICAL PAIR OF STAMPS

(xxi) : All such pairs, in any colour of overprint



1. Feni-Noahkali overprint in RED

2. Feni-Noahkali overprint in VIOLET

3. Khairabad Barisk

I hope you have found this article helpful, but, at the time of writing, May 2010, it is certainly not to be taken as 100% reliable!. If you can add to, subtract from or correct anything in this article, do please send me an email. This is a work in progress and it may well require input from many sources, over a number of years, to make it an accurate source of information.